

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1) (Currently amended) In a process for the recovery of a ~~protein~~ chemokine expressed in prokaryotic host cells as inclusion bodies and its subsequent purification, comprising a step of solubilization of aggregated chemokine protein in inclusion bodies/denaturation and a step of renaturation/refolding, the improvement consisting ~~in~~ of interposing a Reverse Phase Chromatography step between the step of solubilization of the aggregated proteins in the inclusion bodies/denaturation and the renaturation/refolding step.

2) (Original) The process of claim 1, in which the prokaryotic cells are bacterial cells.

3) (Original) The process of ~~claims 1 or~~ claim 2, in which the bacterial cells are ~~E. Coli~~ Escherichia coli cells.

Claim 4 (Cancelled)

5) (Original) The process of claim ~~3~~ 1, wherein the chemokine is the ~~chemokine~~ mutant protein having the sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.

6(New). The process of claim 1, characterized in that the following steps are performed:

a) solubilizing the aggregated chemokine proteins in the inclusion bodies;

b) subjecting the solubilized chemokine proteins to Reverse Phase Chromatography;

c) subjecting the product obtained from step b) to a renaturation/refolding step; and

d) subjecting the product obtained from step c) to a chromatographic step selected from size exclusion chromatography, ion exchange chromatography, affinity chromatography.

7(New). The process of claim 1, characterized in that the following steps are performed:

a) solubilizing the aggregated chemokine proteins in the inclusion bodies;

b) subjecting the solubilized chemokine protein to Reverse Phase Chromatography;

c) subjecting the product obtained from step b) to a renaturation/refolding step; and

d) subjecting the product obtained from step c) to two ion exchange chromatography steps.

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8(New). The process of claim 1, wherein, after the solubilizing and/or refolding step, a filtration step is performed.